

Fast Track FAQ

Will there be any Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) adjustments due to special circumstances or professional judgment? For example, if a student lost a job or dropped to part-time employment in order to complete their degree.

There will be no AGI adjustments due to special circumstances or professional judgment. Due to recent changes made to the program, Fast Track eligibility is based on the most recent Missouri 1040 tax form and not FAFSA data.

If the student is listed as a dependent on the FAFSA, should they use their own or their parents' AGI?

Eligibility is determined by the AGI of the applicant using the most recent Missouri 1040 tax form regardless of FAFSA dependency status.

What is the "most recent tax return?"

The most current tax return due to the state of Missouri. If you are not required to file, please submit an IRS verification of non-filer letter.

Now that students are required to be a Missouri resident for two years prior to participation, what happens with students who participated last year but wouldn't meet that requirement this year?

Students who received a Fast Track award prior to August 28, 2022, can continue to receive Fast Track funds if otherwise eligible, even if they do not currently meet the two-year residency requirement.

Who verifies the two-year residency requirement? Will this be part of certification?

During the application process, students must verify that they are a current Missouri resident and have been a Missouri resident for at least the past two years. Before the application can be submitted, students must attest that the information they have provided is true, which MDHEWD will accept as sufficient. If the institution has reason to believe this information is inaccurate, they may verify the information during the certification process.

The eligibility requirements state that an applicant must not have been enrolled in an educational program for the prior two academic years if under the age of 25. If the student is required to take prerequisite coursework for a program, do they have to wait another two academic years to be eligible?

Prerequisite coursework for a program does not start the two-year eligibility timeframe over, and as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria, students may enroll in a program directly after completing the prerequisite coursework. In many instances, these required prerequisite courses should be considered part of the eligible program, and students should be able to use Fast Track funds to cover those costs.

Fast Track will cover tuition and program-related fees but not course-related fees. What is the distinction between the two types of fees?

Program fees are fees everyone in the program is expected to pay, while course-level fees are for courses not everyone in the program is required to take. For example, if there is a course that all students in the program must take and that course has fees, that would be considered a program fee because everyone in the program must pay those fees. If there are courses that are optional to the program, but not everyone in the program is required to take, then those would be considered course fees and Fast Track would not cover those fees.

If a student is in default on their federal student loans, are they eligible for Fast Track?

A student who is in default on federal student loans may still be eligible for Fast Track.